9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece
Bulgaria EE1

Roumelia, — to those houses of the remaining parts of Greek or Turkish Thrace is complete. [342] [171]

This is evident. The whole of Thrace, not only during the Middle Ages, but also during the Turkish occupation, constituted a geograph- [177]

[363]

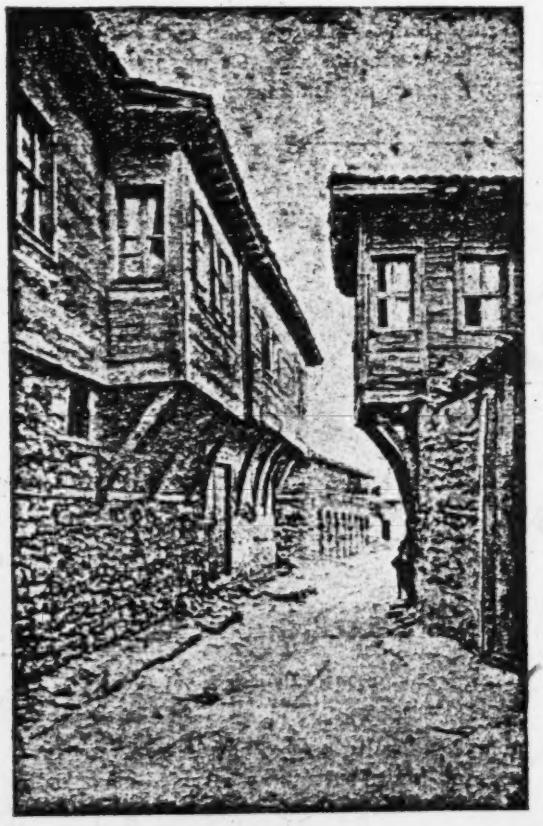

Fig. 35 A street at Messimvria

ical and political entity whose character, from an ethnological and cultural point of view, was purely Greek(1). The Bulgars who established themselves at various times as labourers and farmers in the Thracian [177]

1) See **K. M. Apostolides,** Ρωμανία — Ζαγορά καὶ τὰ τῆς Θρᾴκης ὄρια ἐπὶ τῆς Βυζαντινῆς αὐτοκρατορίας (Ἀρχεῖον Θρᾳκ. Θησαυροῦ 8 (1941-42) 80 foll. 83 foll).

9:Megas 1,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece
Bulgaria EE1

342 177 farms of Turks or Greeks, found the always existing system of housing better and preferable to the simple hut dwellings to which they had been used, and adapted their way of life and of housing to that of the other inhabitants. The same holds good, as we shall see, for the houses of Middle Mountain (Sredna Gora) and for those of the Bulgarian coastal zone from Agathoupolis to Dionysopolis (to-day Baltsik), where the Greeks, until the anti-Greek actions of 1906, were by far predominating over the Bulgars, as regards population, develop-

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Fig. 36 Houses at Baltsik (ancient Dionysopolis)

342 177 ment of economy and culture. (1) That is why we find the ancient type of the megaron house splendidly retained in all the villages near Messimvria, that is in Aivlassis, Naimonas, Bana, Aspros, Ravdas etc., (see p. 7 above) and the houses of towns and villages there, do not differ, as regards disposition of spaces and general construction, from those of the other Greek urban centres. (Figg. 35 and 36).

[363] C. Jirecek already considers the ancient Greek towns of the coast, such as Messimvria, Sozopolis, etc., as the model for all the small towns situated in the Tyrnavos area, as well as of those built on the

1) See J. Cvijic' op. cit. p. 156.

9:Megas I, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece
Bulgaria EE1

Southern slopes of Haimos and the Northern side of Rodope, which are characterised by their stone-built two-storey houses, their tile covered roofs, their stone paved narrow streets and the small commercial street(1). He says on the other hand that «the best houses of Philippople present an entirely Southern character and were used as models in the whole area as far as Koprichtitsa and Kalofer» (2).

342 177 [363]

This truth is recognized by Zlatev who writes on page 156 of his book: «The house of Sredna Gora, as well as that of Southern Bulgaria, has without any doubt originated from the influence of Adria-

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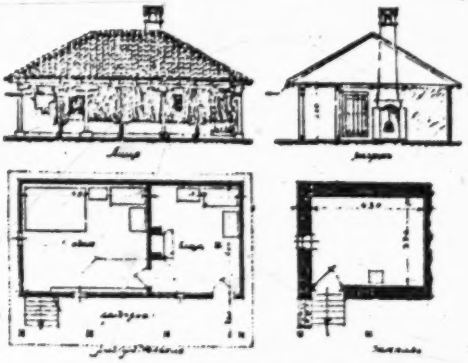

Fig. 37 Plan, section and front of a house in the village of Divlia, district of Radomir
(Zlatev, Bălg. kasta fig. 83)

nople and Constantinople», by that he means the influence of Greek architecture on the formation of the houses of Southern Bulgaria.

But even to the West, on the plateau of Sofia, the houses of peasants, according to Zlatev and as it is shown by the plans of two typical houses of that area built in 1860 and 1870 and presented here (figg. 37 and 39), «do not differ at all as regards disposition of spaces,

1) **C. Jirecek,** Das Fürstenthum Bulgarien, Wien 1891, p. 152.

2) **C. Jirecek**, op. cit. p. 163. «From the front-door, one enters a stone-paved courtyard, climbs a wide staircase, comes into an airy veranda supported by wooden beams and through it into the large rooms with big square windows. The well turned edge of the projecting roof and the enclosed or open balconies on the side that overlook the road, complete the pleasant impression caused by this house.» A contrary impression caused by the buildings of the Bulgarian towns is expressed by the author a few lines previously.